

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 (Currently amended). A composition for a fire-protection agent for materials, characterized in comprising that its ingredients include ceramic-forming additives and volume-formers, whereby in the event of heating, a volume of a layer formed by the fire-protection agent is increased by at least 500% in volume.

2 (Currently amended). The composition of claim 1, characterized in that the ceramic-forming additives include ~~included are~~ at least two of the compounds selected from the group consisting of disodium tetraborate, ammonium pentaborate, TiO_2 , B_2O_3 and SiO_2 , ~~especially disodium tetraborate and ammonium pentaborate.~~

3 (Currently amended). The composition of claim 1, characterized in that the volume-formers ~~included~~ are gas-formers alone or in combination with acid-formers.

4 (Original). The composition of claim 3, wherein the gas-former is selected from the group consisting of NH_4Cl , NaHCO_3 , melamine phosphate and melamine.

5 (Previously presented). The composition of claim 3, wherein the acid-former is selected from the group consisting of melamine phosphate, aluminum sulfate, ammonium polyphosphate, ammonium monophosphate, and melamine-coated ammonium polyphosphate.

6 (previously presented). The composition of claim 1, comprising as further auxiliaries KAlSO_4 , $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$, aluminum sulfate, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol or tripentaerythritol.

7 (previously presented). The composition of claim 1, which is a paint based on polybutadiene resin, on melamine/formaldehyde and/or on radiation-curable

coating material.

8 (previously presented). The composition of claim 1, further comprising dispersants, fillers, pigments, defoamers, inorganic salts, flow control additives, crosslinkers and/or silane/siloxane-based silicone microemulsion.

9 (Canceled).

10 (Previously presented). The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is in liquid form.

11 (Previously presented). The composition of claim 1, wherein at least the ceramic-forming additives and the volume-formers are present in nanoparticle-coated form.

12 (Currently amended). The composition of claim 1, wherein ~~salts of the~~ ceramic-forming additives and of the volume-formers are present as salts having ~~exhibit~~ a particle size of 1 to 50 μm .

13 (Currently amended). A method of treating materials for fire protection, comprising applying to a material a composition for a fire-protection agent for materials, characterized in that said composition includes its ingredients include ceramic-forming additives and volume-formers.

14 (Currently amended). The method of claim 13, wherein the material in ~~question~~ is wood, steel, concrete or plastic.

15 (previously presented). A method of producing a fire-protection agent, characterized in that ceramic-forming additives are added to a volume-forming fire-protection agent.

16 (Original). The method of claim 15, characterized in that the ceramic-forming additives are ground with one another before being incorporated by dispersion into

the fire-protection agent.

17 (Currently amended). The method of claim 16, characterized in that grinding takes place in a ball mill in the absence of moisture for θ up to 3 days.

18 (Previously presented). The method of claim 15, characterized in that the ceramic-forming additives and the volume-forming fire-protection agent are present as nanoparticle-coated salts.

19 (Currently Amended). Protection agent ~~The use of a composition for a fire=~~
~~protection agent for materials, characterized in that its ingredients include~~
~~ceramic-forming additives and volume-formers as fire protection for wood, steel,~~
~~concrete, or plastic~~ characterized in that it contains ceramic-forming additives and
volume-formers.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) The composition of claim 2, characterized in that the ceramic-forming additives are disodium tetraborate and ammoniumpentaborate.

23. (New) The composition of claim 1 in the form of a carbon-foam former.

24. (New) The composition of claim 1 in the form of a polymer material.

25. (New) The composition of claim 1 in the form of a cable sheating.

26. (New) Transparent coatings comprising ceramic-forming additives and volume-formers, wherein the ceramic-forming additives and the volume-formers are present as nanoparticles having a particle size of from 1 to 150 nm.